GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1552
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
ASSESSMENT OF HIV/ AIDS CASES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated number of HIV/ AIDS affected persons in the country is between 2.5 and 3.1 million and not 5.7 million as per the recently released report of the survey conducted by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the criteria/ method used for the purpose;

(c) the reasons for inflating the figures earlier;

(d) the details of assessment of various surveys conducted in the past and the criteria/ method adopted for such surveys; and

(e) the prevalence of HIV/ AIDS affected persons in the country as per the new survey, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) : Yes, Sir. The estimated number of HIV/AIDS affected persons in the country is between 2 million to 3.1 million.

(b) : The above estimates are based on the results of the annual sentinel surveillance survey carried among antenatal women and high risk population groups in 1122 sites covering all the districts in the country.Validation factors for estimating the rates in the general population were obtained from the results of the community based National Family Health Survey − III.

(c) : The earlier estimates were based on the results of annual sentinel surveys. Data from nation-wide community- based survey were not available prior to 2006. Global experience indicates that sentinel surveillance surveys in the countries with concentrated epidemic could lead to a higher estimation of prevalence rates.

(d) : Annual unlinked anonymous sentinel surveillance among antenatal women and high risk population groups has been carried out in the past annually since 1998. The antenatal women represent the general population and high risk groups are represented by STD clinic attendees, commercial sex workers, men having sex with men and intravenous drug users. The number of sites from where the blood samples are collected has increased from 711 sites in 2005 to 1122 sites in 2006. All the districts in the country were covered by one or more sites during the survey in 2006.

(e) : The estimated prevalence of HIV/AIDS affected persons is given in the attached statement at Annexure-I.